

AMENDED CLAIMS

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original claims 1-11 replaced by new claims 1-9 (2 pages)]

1. A hair clip comprising two combs (12) and at least one elastic member (14) resiliently to bias the teeth (12.2) of the combs into an interleaved arrangement with one another, each comb having opposed first and second surfaces, wherein
- 5 -- the widths of the teeth (12.2) of each comb are slightly wider than the widths of the spaces (18) adjacent the teeth; and
- 10 -- the teeth (12.2) of each comb are shaped with tapering sides on both the first and second surfaces in order to inter-fit with the teeth of the other comb, such that at least portions of at least selected teeth of each comb fit partially into spaces of the other comb (Figure 11),
- 15 -- whereby, when the teeth of the combs are interleaved from opposite directions (Figures 8 and 10), with some of the teeth of one comb overlaying and others underlaying the teeth of the other comb and such teeth being biased towards one another, at least some of such overlaying and underlaying teeth interact with one another to form clamps for clamping hair between the two combs in use.
- 20 2. The hair clip of claim 1, wherein at least the selected teeth (12.2) are substantially elliptical in cross-section to provide arcuate tapers substantially along their length.
- 25 3. The hair clip of either of claims 1 or 2, wherein all of the teeth (12.2) are wider than the spaces between the teeth and all are of substantially the same width.
4. The hair clip of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the width of the teeth is about 0.5 to 2 mm wider than the width of the spaces between the teeth of the comb with which such teeth are to be interleaved in use.
- 30 5. The hair clip of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the combs are of a resiliently flexible material, such as an appropriate plastics.
- 35 6. The hair clip of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein at least one of the elastic members (14.2) comprises a length of elastic material and a plurality of beads threaded onto the length of elastic material.

7. A method of fastening hair using a hair clip (10) comprising two combs (12) and at least one elastic member (14) to bias the teeth (12.2) of the combs towards each other, the combs (12) being movable independently of each other and selected teeth (12.2) being wider than the spaces (18) between teeth with which such selected teeth are to be interleaved in use, including the steps of:
- inserting one of the combs (12) into the hair in a first direction;
 - stretching the elastic member (14);
 - inserting the other comb (12) into the hair in a second direction substantially opposed to the first direction; and
 - twisting the combs (12) relatively to each other while inserting them into engagement, such that some of the teeth of one comb overlay and others underlay the teeth of the other comb so as to clamp hair between the two combs.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the twisting is performed by rotating one comb relatively to the other (Figure 8).
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the twisting is performed by distorting at least one comb about an axis substantially parallel to the length of the teeth of the comb (Figure 10).